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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 DHA-02 ORM-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN
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P 092356Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057655

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: VI OASGA: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE
REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 1734; (B) SANTIAGO 1764

1. IN OUR VIEW, SUGGESTION THAT OAS SECGEN ORFILA MIGHT CREATE SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS BODY TO VISIT SANTIAGO PRIOR TO GA WILL NOT PROSPER. CHARTER AND OAS REGULATIONS DO NOT PROVIDE SECGEN THIS DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND PERMANENT COUNCIL WOULD PROBABLY OBJECT TO HIS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE INTO SUCH A SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE.

2. THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, POSSIBLE AVENUE FOR RETURN OF IAHRC, OR PART OF IT, TO SANTIAGO PRIOR TO GA. AMERICAN IAHRC MEMBER, AMB WOODWARD, TOLD USOAS THAT MEETING OF COMMISSION NOW UNDER WAY WILL COMPLETE REPORT ON CHILE BY MARCH 19. COMMISSION WILL THEN SEND REPORT TO GOC FOR COMMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO PERMANENT COUNCIL AND GA.

3. IT OCCURS TO US THAT YOU MIGHT QUIETLY SUGGEST TO GOC
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THAT RECEIPT OF THIS REPORT, WHICH WILL BE CRITICAL OF

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE, COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR GOC TO SPECIFY OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT AND ASK IAHRC TO SEND ONE OR MORE MEMBERS TO REVIEW AREAS WHERE IT THINKS REPORT IS OFF BASE. WOODWARD TOLD US MAJORITY OPINION ON COMMISSION STRONGLY OPPOSES RETURNING TO CHILE. THEREFORE, IAHRC COULD WELL TURN DOWN CHILEAN INVITATION. NONETHELESS, CHILE'S IMAGE WOULD BE ENHANCED SOMEWHAT BY MERE FACT OF HAVING ISSUED INVITATION.

4. WE MUST POINT OUT ALSO THAT AMBASSADOR TRUCCO IS AGAINST A PRE-OASGA VISIT. HIS HAND MAY HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS. TRUCCO FEELS IT IS UP TO THE IAHRC TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THESE MATTERS.

5. WHILE TRUCCO DOES NOT FAVOR THE IDEA HE MAY BE MORE HARD-LINING THAN SANTIAGO. FOR THE MOMENT, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR FURTHER ASSESSMENT ON POSSIBLE RECEPTIVITY IN SANTIAGO TO A PRE-OASGA VISIT GIVEN RECENT SELF-DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCIES IN THE IAHRC. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE LOOKING AT OTHER APPROACHES INCLUDING YOUR SUGGESTION FOR A DEMARCHE TO PINOCHET. KISSINGER

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